-- 36. The chromatography column of claim 30 wherein said receiving region and said sealing region are together at least six times as long as said outflow region. --

REMARKS

With this Preliminary Amendment, the Applicants add claims 22-36, Figure 7, and text.

Support for the amendment is found in the specification and drawings as originally filed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/137,278 and in this divisional application. No new matter is added.

For example, a chromatography column having an inlet end, an outlet end is shown in Figure 1 and the specification at page 1, lines 16-22, describes cylindrical columns containing chromatography media bounded by porous plates. Figures 5 and 6 show the module receiving region (which is the region in Figure 6 occupied by the sample module) required by claims 22, 25 and 28 and the sealing region (which is the region occupied by the sealing head above the sample module) required by claims 23, 26, 30 of the chromatography column. The outflow region of claim 28 is inherently supported by the application at page 1, lines 16-22, which describes chromatography columns having a chromatography media bounded axially by porous plates through which a mobile phase flows. New Figure 7 has been added to show the outflow region in order to comply with 37 CFR 1.83(a). The significant depth of the module receiving region, the sealing region, and the inner surface of the chromatography column are described in the application at, for example, page 6, lines 16-25. Based on the original disclosure, one skilled in the art would understand the chromatography column of claims 31-36 to have the feature of a substantially longer module receiving region, as compared with its outflow region, which only requires sufficient room for sealing. The relative combined length of the module receiving region and the sealing region in comparison with the length of the column that is sufficient for sealing alone is shown in Figures 5 and 6, in which the combined length of the module receiving region and the sealing region of column 18 is approximately six times longer than the region in sample module 16 above porous plate 24 that forms a seal with sealing member 134.

Applicants submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Filed herewith is a check in payment of the excess claims fees required by the above amendments. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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